

Dear honorable Representatives of Connecticut,

I speak to you today on a matter that is hotly contested, from living rooms to Church halls to Hospital conference rooms to the State Capitol itself. But the idea of Assisted Suicide comes down to one, simple question: who does one's life belong to? In our society, there are very few things that remain ours throughout our lifetime, our money we earn is levied with taxes and fees from the federal, state governments and banks, Our private property is assessed and levied with taxes, our children can be taken from us if we are found to be unfit to raise a child. There comes a point where we must stand up and realize that, in the final analysis, all we really have that is truly ours and that we remain in sole possession of is our own lives. And now, with HB 6645, we are about to traverse down a road which we do not know where it will lead, we do not know the consequences and inevitably take us to a place we will not be ready for. Life is a series of cause and effect relationships, every action leads to a result, good, bad or indifferent. And those that make decisions rarely are alive to see the effects of their decisions. The *Plessy vs. Ferguson* Supreme Court decision of 1896, for example, none of the 7 supreme court justices were alive to see the results of their supposed "separate, but equal" legal precedent, which stretched into the 1950's: with African Americans being segregated with everything from public restrooms and water fountains, to separate baseball leagues and theatres. And I guarantee you this, that none of us will be alive to see the results of this law either. To take the ability of Connecticut citizens to live our their lives as they see fit and place their lives in the hands of misguided and impartial physicians is abjectly cruel and unusual punishment, and for what? To live life? When a person comes to a doctor and states they no longer want to live, that is as direct a contradiction to human nature as can be presented! Human nature has always been the idea to preserve life, in all circumstances and situation, as long as possible, by any means necessary. Any person who states, under no pressure from outside forces, that they no longer wish to live, it's safe to say that they themselves are not able to truly know what is right for them or not, therefore, must rely on their friends, family and neighbors to be able to do the most dignified and proper thing for them. And to allow that person to end their life is immoral and manipulation of the weakest and most needy of our great state. Thank you for your attention, and please, Vote NO on Assisted Suicide!